

District Judge James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL,

Plaintiff,

v.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Defendant.

Case No. C18-1387 JLR

JOINT STATUS REPORT

**AND ORDER**

Plaintiff SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL ("SSL") filed the above-captioned lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") against Defendant U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ("DOI"), seeking disclosure of certain documents. On August 6, 2019, the Court, at the parties' request, ordered the parties to (1) continue to work toward resolution of this matter without further judicial intervention and (2) submit a joint status report ("JSR") within the next 60 days. Dkt. No. 27.

Accordingly, the parties submit this JSR to notify the Court of their progress towards resolving this matter. The parties worked together to identify a subset of relatively recent records that may be responsive to SSL's FOIA request. DOI conducted a search and provided SSL with an index of approximately 1,600 documents, which constituted the universe of potentially responsive records yet to be produced. DOI then identified on the index which documents were non-responsive or were likely duplicative

1 of records already produced. With this information, SSL identified which records it  
2 would like DOI to release in a prioritized production.

3 DOI's FOIA office intends to produce this narrowed set of documents on or before  
4 November 15, 2019, with the possible exception of a small number of documents that  
5 may have to be sent to another agency for consultation. At this time, the parties  
6 anticipate that, apart from attorneys' fees and costs, this production (including any  
7 disputes over associated withholdings or redactions) is the last substantive issue to be  
8 addressed regarding Plaintiff's FOIA claims.

9 For good cause, the parties respectfully request that they be allowed to submit a  
10 joint status report within the next 60 days. If at any time in the next 60 days it becomes  
11 apparent that resolution between the parties is not feasible, the parties will submit a joint  
12 briefing schedule to the Court.

13 **SO STIPULATED.**

14 Dated this 20th day of September, 2019.

15 s/ Brett W. Sommermeyer  
16 BRETT W. SOMMERMEYER, WSBA # 30003

17 s/ Catherine E. Pruett  
18 CATHERINE E. PRUETT, WSBA # 35140

19 SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL  
20 226 Eastlake Avenue East, No. 108  
21 Seattle, WA 98102  
22 Phone: (206) 504-1600  
23 Email: [brett@seashepherdlegal.org](mailto:brett@seashepherdlegal.org)  
24 Email: [catherine@seashepherdlegal.org](mailto:catherine@seashepherdlegal.org)

25 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
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1 **SO STIPULATED.**

2 Dated this 20th day of September, 2019.

3 BRIAN T. MORAN  
4 United States Attorney

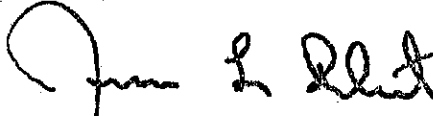
5 s/ Michelle R. Lambert  
6 MICHELLE R. LAMBERT, NY # 4666657  
7 Assistant United States Attorney  
8 United States Attorney's Office  
9 1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 700  
10 Tacoma, Washington 98402  
11 Phone: 253-428-3824  
12 Email: [michelle.lambert@usdoj.gov](mailto:michelle.lambert@usdoj.gov)

13 Attorneys for Defendant  
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ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.



JAMES L. ROBART  
United States District Judge